

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of March 16, 2005, requesting that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) consider providing emission reductions credits to the Texas State Implementation Plan (SIP) for all new research and technology developments funded by the voluntary Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) and other State funds to reduce air pollution.

We commend the State of Texas and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for committing to fund and implement voluntary programs to attain the national ambient air quality standards. The EPA encourages innovative approaches and technologies that promote clean air and recognizes the significant potential benefits that may result from these programs.

In regard to your specific request, we are interested in learning more about the programs, research and technology which are currently planned to be funded. I will have my EPA Region 6 Office contact TCEQ to understand better the nature of the emissions reductions which are expected to result. With a more complete understanding of these activities, we would be in a better position to determine whether and to what extent such activities may be credited towards the State's pollution reduction obligations.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Dona DeLeon, in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at (202) 564-7178.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Johnson
Acting Administrator

cc: Kathleen H. White, TCEQ

bcc: Jim Yarbrough, EPA Region 6
Richard Greene, EPA Region 6
Carl Edlund, EPA Region 6

EPA/OAR/OAQPS/AQSSD/OPSG/DCOLE\LLassiter:

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Coordinated with Region 6 – Tom Diggs